

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-30

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R 051118Z AUG 74T

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8147

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T CAIRO 5825

EXDIS

JIDDA FOR AMBASSADOR AKINS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR EG VS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN OVERFLIGHT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: SAIGON 10221 (OOTAL)

1. I CONVEYED SCBSTANCE REFTEL TO FAHMY AND ASHRAF MARWAN (AN AIDE TT THE PRESIDENT) IN ALEXANDRIA TWO DAYS AGO. IN DOING SO, I NOTED THAT IF SAQQAF VISIT TO SAIGON DOES NOT TAKE PLACE SOON, RVN FONMIN BAC WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A LETTER FROM SAQQAF TRANSMITTING EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR EGYPTAIR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS OF SOUTH VIETNAM TERRITORY AOD THAT SUCH LETTER COULD BE GIVEN TO GVN AMBASSADOR IN JIDDA FOR FORWARDING TO BAC. MATTER COULD BE FOLLOWED UP WHEN BOTH FAHMY AND BAC ARE IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH FOR UNGA IF NECESSARY.

2. FAHMY SAID SAQQAF TOLD EGYPTIANS HE HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO VIST SAIGON. FAHMY AGAIN PRESSED THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY THROUGH US RATHER THAN THROUGH SAQQAF. (FAHMY IS OFFICIALLY RELUCTANT TO BE BEHOLDEN TO SAG ON THIS AND PERSONALLY EVEN MORE RELUCTANT TO HAVE TO REQUEST SAQQAF'S HELP.) THIS WOULD MAKE THE WHOLE THING MORE TIDY.

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3. I AGAIN WENT OVER GVN RATIONALE IN WANTING REQUEST MADE THROUGH SAQQAF IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO GIVE AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO A FIRST SAUDI REQUEST. I POINTED OUT PROCEDURE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY BOTH PRESIDENT THIEU AND BAC AND THAT WE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT A POSITIVE REPLY WILL BE FORTHCOMING. IF GOE WANTS EXPEDITIOUS ACTION, IT WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO FOLLOW PRESCRIBED PROCEDURE. SINCE BOTH SAQQAF AND RASHAD PHARAON WERE CURRENTLY IN ALEXANDRIA, I SUGGESTED SUBJECT BE TAKEN UP WITH THEM ASAP.

4. FAHMY INITIALLY GRUMBLED AND CXESTIONED SAQQAG'S RELIABILITY IN PASSING REQUEST TO GVN AMBASSADOR, BUT ULTIMATE Y AGREED TO V DISCUSS MATTER WITH SAQQAF. I TOLD HIM I WOULD ASK AMBASSADOR AKINS DISCREETLY TO FOLLOW UP WITH RAQQAF

TO URGE EXPEDITIOUS ACTION.

5. THIS MORNING, WHEN SEEING FAHMY OFF AT AIRPORT, HE TOLD ME MATTER HAD BEEN PUT TO SAQQAF AND RASHAD PHARAON AND THAT SAUDIS HAVE AGREED TO ASSIST. FAHMY STILL ENTERTAINED DOUBTS ABTUT SAQQAF'S RELIABILITY AND SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR AKINS' HELP IN URGING SAQQAF TO MOVE QUICKLY.

6. FOR JIDDA: I BELIEVE ABOVE, WHICH REPRESENTS DISTILLATION OF A SERIES OF MESSAGES EXCHANGED DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS BETWEEN CAIRO AND SAIGON ON TBTAINING GVN OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR EGYPTAIR, SHOULD FILL YOC IN ON WHAT IS INVOLVED. THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT WITH DEPT'S APPROVAL. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN GENTLY URGING OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, OOAR, TO MOVE ON THIS ONE WITH DELAY.; REFTEL BEING REPEATED TO YOU. ADVISE IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED.

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7. FOR SAIGON: RE PARA 3 REFTEL, WILL TAKE OCCASION DISCREETLY SUGGEST GOE RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON "PRG" REPRESENTATION IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES. UNTIL EGYPTIAN REQUEST IS MET, HOWEVER, COMPENSATORY ADVANTAGE ARGUMENT MAY BE A BIT PREMATURE.EILTS

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